

Message Text

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42 S

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SEC-03 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 SNM-02 SSO-00

DRC-01 RSC-01 L-03 ARAE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /069 W

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O 091610Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8034

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3454

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORS CS

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH DEA, SEC, AND JUSTICE

REF: STATE 196340

1. EMBASSY HAD OPPORTUNITY OVER THE WEEKEND TO MENTION TO TAREFA INTEREST THAT DEA AND PERHAPS OTHER U.S. AGENCIES HAVE IN TALKING FURTHER WITH HIM. NARCOTICS THEME WAS STRESSED AS IT IS RELATIVELY LESS SENSITIVE, BUT CLEAR IMPLICATION WAS LEFT THAT SZW MIGHT ALSO WISH TO TALK WITH HIM. TAREFA SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO MEET WITH DEA OFFICIALS IF THEY DESIRE, BUT HE ADDED THAT HIS INFORMATION IS MOSTLY THIRD HAND AND ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS HE WISHED TO TALK WITH EMBASSY IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS TO CONFIRM SOME OF HIS IMPRESSIONS. HE SAID PUJOL IS DEFINITELY IN COSTA RICA AND DAILY OVERSEEING THE WORK ON THE NEW RESTUARANT GOING IN AT SAN JOSE'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

2. EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT IS THAT TAREFA MOTIVATION TO MEET AND DISCUSS WITH USG OFFICIALS STEMS FROM:
(1) GENUINE CONCERN THAT HE, HIS STEPFATHER, AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS ARE BEING UNWITTINGLY SUCKED INTO FINANCING A NARCOTICS OPERATION;(2) A SENSE THAT THE VESCO AFFILIATION, WHICH LOOKED PROMISING AND
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PROSPEROUS LAST YEAR, IS NOW BEGINNING TO LOOK LESS

SANGUINE UNDER A NEW GOVERNMENT (ODUBER) WITH A LESS POSITIVE POINT VIEW THAN HIS PREDESSOR TOWARD VESCO;(3) TAREFA WAS EDUCATED IN U.S. SCHOOLS AND CONSEQUENTLY HAS ABSORBED QUITE A CONSIDERABLE DOSE OF U.S. CULTURE, ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM RESPECT AND LOOK UP TO U.S. AUTHORITY; AND (4) RELATING TO POINT (2) INOCENTE ALVAREZ AND, BY IMPLICATION, TAREFA ARE BEGINNING TO FEEL THE PRESSURE ON THEIR REPUTATIONS AND WANT TO BE ON SIDE OF THE ANGELS WHEN THE BOAT BEGINS TO SINK. WE SHOULD NOT, OF COURSE, ENTIRELY DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT ALVAREZ AND TAREFA ARE PLAYING A DEEPER GAME SEEKING TO FIND OUT WHAT USG IS UP TO WITH REGARD TO THEM AND/OR VESCO.

3. JOHNSON UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO CARACAS DUE TO PRESS OF EMBASSY DUTIES THIS WEEK, BUT WE EXPECT THE ABOVE WILL ANSWER MOST QUESTIONS. TAREFA IS COMING INTO EMBASSY AT 9 AM SEPTEMBER 10 FOR ANOTHER MEETING AND EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING NOTIFIED IF U.S. OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH HIM. A PLACE OUTSIDE COSTA RICA WOULD BE PREFERABLE.

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